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Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016

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Dr. Joss Reimer shows naloxone kits, used for emergency overdoses, being made available via the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.
BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

URGENT EMERGENT

Authorities fear fentanyl in dozens of Manitoba deaths

metroNEWS

City backs True North Square

INFRASTRUCTURE

Officials willing to support funding for $400M project: Mayor Bowman

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg's mayor says city officials are in the midst of talks with True North, trying to determine the city's share of contribution towards infrastructure at a new $400-million development eyed for downtown.

Brian Bowman said Wednesday the city is willing to put down money to support public amenities for True North Square — a mixed-use hotel, office and residential tower complex, which is planning to be built on Carleton Street in 2017.

"This is an investment in our downtown of over $400 million (that) could be transformative," he told reporters.

"Obviously we want to support those efforts."

Bowman said the city's financial support would be in terms of the development's public spaces, which could range from sewage and water to skywalks, sidewalks, lighting and benches.

He also wouldn't provide specifics as to any exact dollar amount or potential cap, saying that precise figure is what officials are trying to hammer out.

In the meantime, Bowman said he hopes more details are ready to be brought to council "very soon."

Another possibility being explored is for True North to access tax increment financing, he added.

True North Sports & Entertainment bought the site — home to the former Carleton Inn — from the city's development agency CentreVenture.

However, the project came to a screeching halt after Bowman called into question the nature of the contract, referring to it as a backroom deal.

The dispute was resolved after a meeting between Bowman and True North owner Mark Chipman last year.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Will England bid goodbye to "God Save the Queen" anthem? **World**

Tories vow transparency, penalties for rulebreakers

CONSERVATIVES

Pallister reveals 18-point plan on government accountability

Manitoba Opposition Leader Brian Pallister is promising more oversight and new penalties for politicians as part of an 18-point election platform on government accountability.

A key promise would see politicians penalized if they broke the province's elections laws. Currently, there are no repercussions for some offences.

In 2011, then-health minister Theresa Oswald was found guilty of violating a ban on pre-election government announcements when she held a media event too close to election day. She apologized but faced no penalty.

"There have to be consequences beyond the present system, which, of course, just offers the shaming effect," Pallister said Wednesday.

"There need to be personal consequences." He added that fines might be a possibility.

Pallister said he would also ensure more government contracts were open for bidding instead of being handed to a specific company.

A Tory government would also give the conflict-of-interest commissioner new powers to investigate politicians suspected of using their office for personal benefit, he said. The Tories would also ensure government polls and other taxpayer-funded studies were released to the public instead of being withheld under the province's freedom-of-information law.

"Our goal is to become the Canadian leader in open government by the end of our first term," Pallister said.

His government would also ensure byelections were called within six months of a legislature seat becoming vacant instead of the current one-year deadline, he said.

The transparency platform for the April 19 election reiterates some promises Pallister has previously made. They included:

— Ending a public subsidy for political parties based on their election results.

— Having the auditor general review government ads to ensure they were non-partisan.

— Publicly releasing the amount of severance pay given to political staff.

Seven of Premier Greg Selinger's top advisers quit or were shown the door last year following a caucus revolt. The government refused to release a detailed breakdown of the $670,000 in severance pay they received.

The government has also faced criticism of how it tenders contracts after questions were raised about a $5-million attempt to buy flood-fighting equipment.

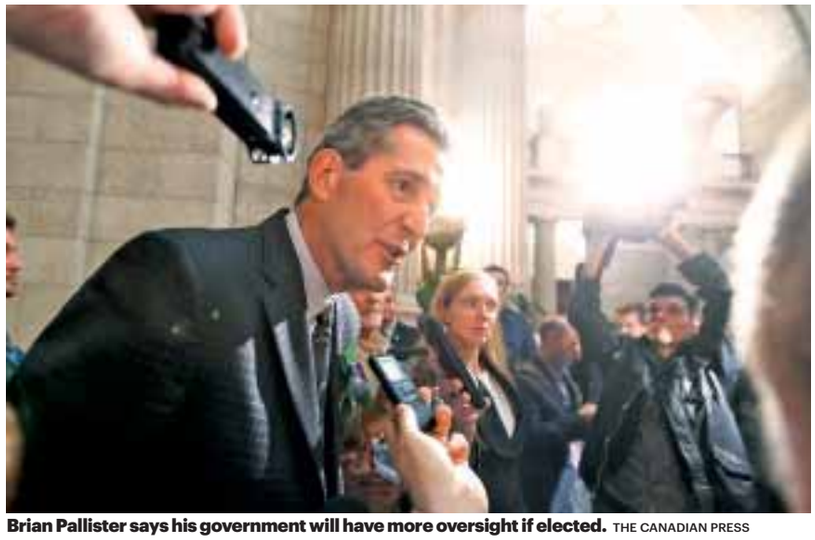
The NDP initially tried to award the contract to a specific company. But an anonymous whistleblower complained to the ombudsman that the contract was being handed to a friend of Infrastructure Minister Steve Ashton and the government scrapped the plan.

A report from the ombudsman's office last week said the government had no justification for initially attempting to sole-source the contract.

NDP house leader Dave Chomiak said some of Pallister's promises, such as expanded powers for the conflict of interest commissioner, are already being implemented by the government. Others won't accomplish much, he said.

"Most of this stuff is symbolic or trite or (things) we're already doing."

Chomiak said he is willing to consider some of Pallister's ideas, such as the six-month limit for byelections and an auditor general's review of government ads. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Brian Pallister says his government will have more oversight if elected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **There have to be consequences beyond the present system, which, of course, just offers the shaming effect.**
> Opposition Leader Brian Pallister

TYLER DUNCAN

NDP exec will run as Liberal

There has been a surprise change of political stripes in Manitoba politics.

Tyler Duncan, a young indigenous leader from the northern community of Norway House, resigned from the executive of the provincial New Democrats on Tuesday afternoon and minutes later, announced he was running as a Liberal candidate in the April 19 election.

It was a sudden shift from a party that has been in power for 16 years to the third-place Liberals, who have just one legislature seat.

"I see that the existing government might be aging out, there's some opportunity for change," said Duncan, who will carry the Liberal banner in The Pas.

"I've seen federally that the Liberals have really delivered for my people — their commitment and what they're already doing so early in their term. It's inspired me ... and I'm ready to join the team provincially and see what we can do to make a difference for First Nations people in Manitoba."

Duncan ran unsuccessfully for NDP president last March, at the age of 19, and was later elected as a member at large.

Duncan has worked as a youth chief for the Norway House Cree Nation and as youth chief for the group that represents First Nations across northern Manitoba.

Duncan said he hopes his friendships with his former NDP colleagues won't be affected. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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2011 FLOODS

Evacuees fear lack of funds for shelter

A family on a northern Manitoba First Nation that has been forced to move more than 15 times since the flood of 2011 says they don't know if they will have a place to live come Feb. 1.

Albert Sutherland and his wife, Cheryl, say they have lived on the Peguis First Nation their whole lives and just want to go home.

Last year, they and their eight children moved into a new modular home on the reserve only to find out it has major issues.

A Peguis First Nation report says the homes had problems with mould and faulty ventilation, plus electrical and structural problems.

The family then had to stay in a cramped trailer last summer, hoping the repairs would be quick so they could move into the house before winter.

But the house has since been stripped right down to its concrete foundation in an effort to fix the problems.

"We got put back into Winnipeg into a hotel," said Cheryl Sutherland. "And we were bounced around between two hotels week after week."

> **We still don't have answers today and we need to know who's responsible for this mess.**
> Cheryl Sutherland

The Sutherlands have been renting a house in Winnipeg for two months but don't know if there will be funding for a third.

Earlier this week, they took their concerns to federal officials, only to be told it is Peguis First Nation's responsibility.

The Sutherlands say the band still hasn't made it clear if there is funding available to repair the modular home or to cover their rent.

CTV WINNIPEG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

BUDGET

Winnipeg predicts $11-million surplus

Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

A financial report headed to city hall this week shows Winnipeg's surplus has climbed to $11 million, according to numbers from last November.

The city's finance chair Coun. Marty Morantz told reporters he expects to confirm numbers with departments within the next week or so to finalize what the city's operating-budget surplus was by the end of December 2015.

"Certainly having a surplus is better than having a deficit," Morantz said in a recent interview. "The amount of a surplus will inform our budget deliberations," adding it is an important factor in delivering a balanced budget.

Because the new financial update is only dated until the end of November, he said the $11-million figure could fluctuate.

He clarified, however, that since the number is a financial forecast he believes staff anticipated expenses through to the end of December — meaning the cost of recent snow clearing efforts were included.

Cynthia Marie French, 35, is dead after being stabbed in this house on William Avenue. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

Sisters charged with murder in stabbings

CRIME

Woman dead, her own sister injured after altercation

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

A Winnipeg woman is dead and her sister is injured after multiple stabbings Tuesday evening on William Avenue.

Winnipeg police said the victim, Cynthia Marie French, 35, arrived home to the boarding house she shared with her sister to find a third woman in their suite. The pair managed to force the woman out of the house.

The woman then came back an hour later, around 6 p.m., with her sister in tow. The woman and her sister stabbed the French sisters in the chest and upper body, police say.

One victim managed to escape and called for help from a pay phone across the street, where the suspects allegedly assaulted her a second time, according to police.

Emergency workers found her near the phone, suffering from critical injuries. She was taken to hospital and has since been upgraded to stable condition.

> **I can't imagine how traumatic the initial and subsequent incidents must have been for her.**
> Const. Eric Hofley on the deceased victim's sister, who survived the attacks

Cynthia French was found inside her home, also in critical condition. She later died from her injuries in hospital.

"I can't imagine what it must have been like to be assaulted, to be stabbed, to be able to make your way away to contact police, to believe you're relatively safe," said Const. Eric Hofley.

"(And then) for the two accused to leave that residence after having assaulted and murdered your sister, locate you again and assault you again …

"I can't imagine how traumatic the initial and subsequent incidents must have been for her."

Sisters Candice Nora Nepinak, 31 and Vanessa Louise Nepinak, 35, have been arrested and charged with second-degree murder and attempted murder. They remain in custody.

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Province readies for a potential fentanyl crisis

PUBLIC HEALTH

$500,000 to be spent on antidote kits and awareness

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

The province is looking to get ahead of a potential fentanyl crisis with a new task force, antidote distribution kits and public awareness campaign, officials announced Tuesday.

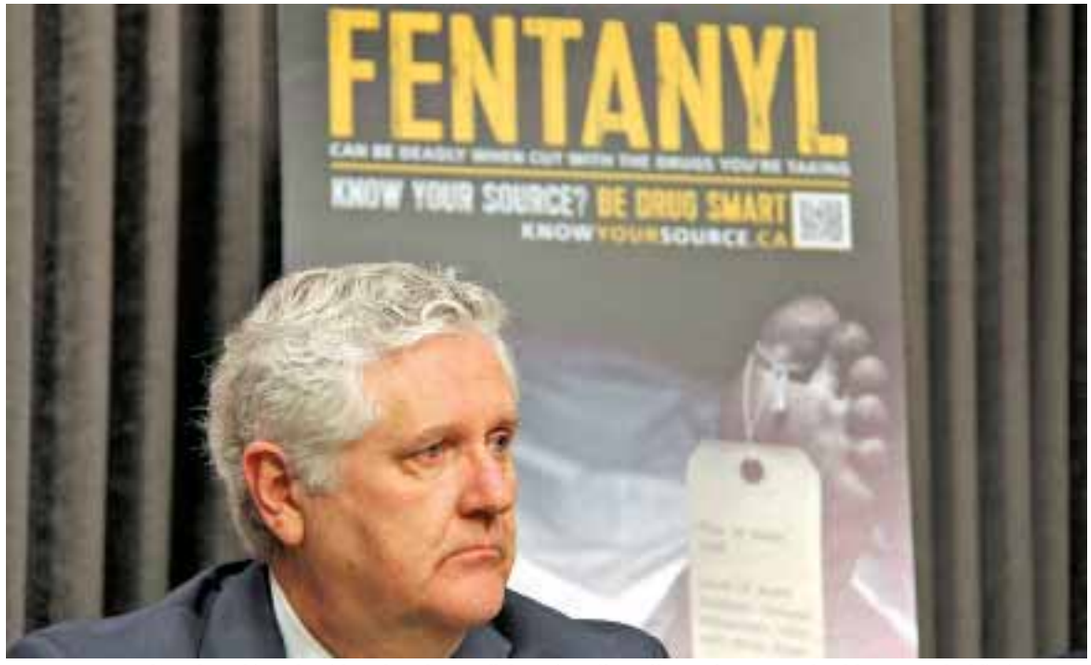
"We all know that fentanyl is causing overdoses and deaths," said Health Minister Sharon Blady of the dangerous synthetic opioid. "We need to be as prepared as possible to respond."

She explained the province is spending $500,000 this year on naloxone antidote kits — which are able to counteract overdoses — and the 'know your source' public awareness campaign.

The campaign will highlight overdose danger signs and safety tips, and 1,300 naloxone kits will be available in Winnipeg first, but will eventually expand to rural areas.

Attorney General Gord Mackintosh said the plan is to get ahead of "what has been recognized as a real killer."

There have been more than 650 fentanyl-related deaths Canada-wide in the last six years.



Attorney General Gord Mackintosh said Wednesday a collaborative effort of law enforcement, health care, and addictions treatment agencies is the best bet to reduce the dangers posed by fentanyl. BRAEDEN JONES/ METRO

Medical officer of health Joss Reimer said the preliminary number of fentanyl-related deaths in Manitoba for 2015 is 29, but those instances are "not where it was a cause of death, but where it was detected."

Medical examiners need time to determine which cases were fentanyl misuse, but it's still roughly double previous years, which saw 10 to 15 fentanyl-related deaths.

"It's always alarming to see the number of deaths for any cause go up, and that's exactly why we wanted to have this task force," Reimer said. "Hopefully we can address this right away."

Blady said the task force will look at ways to improve regulatory oversight, as well as ways to expand support resources and reduce wait times for addictions treatment.

Fentanyl is a painkiller, conventionally used for terminal cancer patients.

Mackintosh said that while it is "comforting to some Manitobans in pain, it is ruthlessly killing others."

Reimer said fentanyl is also highly addictive, as it's about 100 times more powerful than heroin.

"We know from decades of addiction studies, faster-acting drugs are more addictive, and fentanyl is a very fast-acting drug," she said.

Luckily, the antidote being distributed through the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, naloxone, is similarly fast-acting. Reimer said it works in about five minutes.

"But the effect also only lasts about half an hour, so we still encourage people to call 911 in every overdose event, whether or not they have naloxone available," she said.

Those tips and more to address overdoses are included in the pencil-case looking naloxone kits, along with syringes for administration and a protective barrier for mouth-to-mouth.

Manitoba follows Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta, all of which have announced programs to distribute similar kits.

> **We know from decades of addiction studies, faster-acting drugs are more addictive, and fentanyl is a very fast-acting drug.** Joss Reimer

HEALTH

Codeine restrictions toughened

Starting Feb. 1, a prescription will be required for someone to buy a product containing codeine from a Manitoba pharmacy.

The regulation from the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba covers products such as Tylenol 1, Robaxacet-8 and Calmylin, which previously could be purchased without a prescription.

College president Glenda Marsh says in a release that the change will help reduce the harmful effects from improper use of the exempted products, including addiction and liver failure.

Under the new rule, a person must be assessed in person by a doctor, a nurse-practitioner, dentist, or a pharmacist before getting a prescription to buy an exempted codeine product.

Information from the prescription will be entered into the provincial Drug Programs Information Network by the pharmacist after assessing the medication profile and filling the prescription.

Codeine is a narcotic used as an opioid remedy for the relief of mild to moderate pain and treatment of coughs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

starting Feb. 1., a prescription will be required in Manitoba to buy products with codeine. BRAEDEN JONES/METRO

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Canadian's retreat from hell

PERU

Man says he killed in self defence after knife attack

A 29-year-old Winnipeg man said a confrontation at a spiritual retreat in the Peruvian Amazon left him with no choice but to kill or be killed.

Joshua Stevens told CTV Winnipeg he had gone to the Phoenix Ayahuasca retreat near the town of Iquitos in December looking for relief from a skin condition that caused his hair to fall out in circular patches and left his arm covered in a rash.

But he said when he and British tourist Unais Gomes, 25, drank a hallucinogenic brew, things quickly went wrong.

He said Gomes attacked him and two workers at the retreat with a large butcher knife.

He says he was forced to make a life-or-death decision, and stabbed Gomes twice, killing him.

Stevens says the matter is still under investigation and if authorities decide to proceed with charges, he will have to return to Peru.

The hallucinogenic cocktail ayahuasca, also known as yage, has been venerated for centuries by indigenous tribes in Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia as a cure for all sorts of ailments.

But it's also increasingly consumed by Western tourists looking for mind-altering experiences.

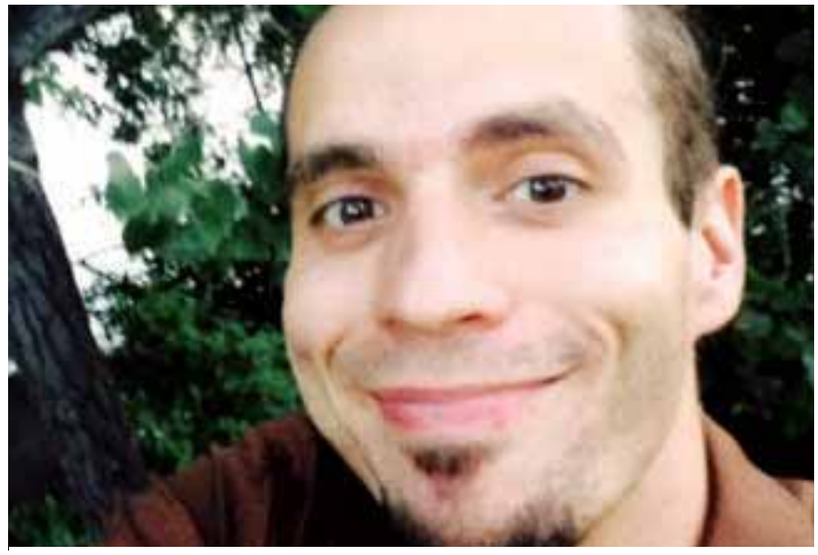
The two men were guests at the retreat owned by a sister and brother team from Australia. It describes itself on its website as "a safe and supportive place to experience plant medicines and explore the true nature of the self."

Stevens, who is now back in Winnipeg, said Gomes took a double dose of the drink.

He said suddenly he could hear Gomes screaming at the top of his lungs ,and came out to see what was wrong.

"It's time to get your demons out, brother," Stevens said Gomes told him, before attacking him.

Stevens said he tried to run for help and the pair ended up in the kitchen area, where Gomes grabbed a knife and he grabbed a steel pot.



Joshua Stevens says he had no choice but to kill a man at a spiritual retreat in December. FACEBOOK

"He swiped at me and he hit the table and his knife broke. I went to hit him with the pot and I hit him in the side of the body and my pot broke. When that happened, that's when he picked up this big butcher knife."

As they fought over the knife, he said, two workers from the retreat came in and tried to grab Gomes, who then went after them.

"That's when I made the decision to stab him," said Stevens, who added the incident has left him with a deep feeling of sadness.

"I really thought I was going to die. I was saying to myself, 'if he gets this knife back, he's either going to kill me or the other two men here.' "

Stevens was arrested and held 24 hours before being released.

Local police chief Normando Marquez has said witnesses described a fight breaking out between Gomes and Stevens, during which a knife was pulled against the Canadian.

The British newspaper The Guardian has previously reported police concluded that Stevens acted in self-defence.

CTV WINNIPEG, THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I really thought I was going to die. I was saying to myself, 'if he gets this knife back, he's either going to kill me or the other two men here.'

Winnipegger Joshua Stevens on his ayahuasca battle with Briton Unais Gomes.

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TREND

Circus training raises bar on fitness

Just ahead of circus artist Andralyn Zayn's debut on the bungee trapeze, she accidentally did a double-front flip straight into the bar.

Doctors didn't diagnose a concussion, so she slathered on enough makeup to hide the cylinder-shaped bump on her forehead.

"There are no breaks, and your body isn't your own," said Marissa Gough, 33, one of Zayn's circus partners.

Gough, Zayn, and her husband, Duane Steel, run Deflying Fitness and travel across Canada and internationally training participants in circus-inspired physical feats for exercise.

Circus-inspired fitness is part of a larger movement with established roots in Canada. A trend including hundreds of circus schools, troops and offshoot ventures emerged from the rising popularity of Cirque du Soleil,

"I'd think that within the last 10 years we saw that growing slowly but surely," said Christophe Rousseau, communications director for Ecole nationale de cirque. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Andralyn Zayn and Marissa Gough show how to do a handstand. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Short-term digs for refugees

LOGISTICS

Temporary housing on tap for newcomers

Thousands of Syrian refugees expected in Canada in the coming days could spend up to two weeks in temporary accommodations.

Those conditions will still be better than what people have left behind in Jordan, Lebanon or Turkey, where nearly all of the Syrian refugees coming to Canada are currently living, said Immigration Minister John McCallum.

When the current resettlement program was rolled out in November, the government said incoming refugees would spend a couple of nights in hotels near the airport before transiting on to their final destinations. For those with private sponsors, there would likely be homes ready but what would happen with government-assisted refugees — those whose costs are covered entirely by government — was always a question mark.

Ordinarily, those refugees are welcomed by settlement agencies that run temporary housing facilities, and they stay there for a few weeks before a permanent home is found.

But those organizations always had concerns that the sheer volume of Syrians would overwhelm those facilities, a fear that's now become a reality as the Liberals work towards bringing 25,000 people to Canada by the end of February.

The groups are providing daily feedback to the government on the number of beds they have available but at least three military bases are expected to be mobilized in the coming weeks to help house thousands of people.

Though government-organized flights of refugees will continue to land almost daily, the government's focus is now shifting to how to ensure the newly arrived are settling in as well as they can once those permanent homes are found.

Along with housing challenges, there is the reality of weaving thousands of new people into their new communities.

Ordinarily, refugees are given extensive predeparture briefings to orient them to life in Canada, covering everything from the weather to bank machines, but those efforts were jettisoned for this program in order to get people here faster. So all of that needs to be done now. THE CANADIAN PRESS

$50M

Target contribution from corporations sought by Immigration Minister John McCallum to help with settlement costs. Of that figure, $20 million has already been raised. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOLERANCE

Pepper-spray attack victim still grateful

Ahmad Hwichan grimaces as he talks about coughing up blood and hearing children screaming in the aftermath of last week's pepper-spray attack in Vancouver.

The newly arrived government-sponsored refugee from Syria was one of about a dozen people sprayed by a man on a bicycle outside a welcome ceremony 10:30 p.m. on Friday.

Despite the suffering, the incident has failed to temper the enthusiasm and gratitude Hwichan and other refugees feel toward their adopted country and its citizens.

"This doesn't change my point of view of Canada. It will never change," Hwichan said through a translator on Tuesday, four days after the attack. "This was probably one guy who was drunk or, I don't know, crazy."

He added in English without the help of a translator: "I love you Canada so much."

The pepper spraying prompted universal condemnation from political leaders, including Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, B.C. Premier Christy Clark and Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan.

Syrian refugee Youssef Ahmad al-Suleiman, also hit in the attack, recounted how he and his fellow newcomers were stunned after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau took to Twitter and apologized on behalf of himself and the Canadian people.

"We're not used to this back home in our own country," al-Suleiman said. "(Syrian President) Bashar al-Assad killed around 300,000 people and did not apologize once."

Al-Suleiman recalled a man cycle up to their group outside a Muslim Association of Canada centre. The man sprayed something once or twice toward the crowd and quickly left, he said. Vancouver police spokesman Sgt. Randy Fincham has said Friday's incident is being investigated as a hate crime. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugees Ahmad Hwichan, centre, and his sons Louai, left, 11, and Qusai, right, 8, at a Vancouver hotel they're living in temporarily. **Ahmad was with a group of other newcomers at a welcoming ceremony Friday when a man on a bike pepper-sprayed them.** DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Memo may signal shift in attitude to Hamas

Federal officials have told Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that a truce between Israel and the militant group Hamas would be good for both parties.

The advice is in a memo written for the incoming prime minister, and represents what some analysts see as a shift in policy from nearly 10 years of Conservative rule under Stephen Harper.

The contents of the memo, obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act, are timely: Israeli warplanes bombed the Gaza Strip today, the first violent flare-up there since the 50-day summer war between Israel and Hamas in 2014.

REPORTS

Israel denies Hamas talks
Canada lists Hamas as a terrorist group. Israel has denied sporadic reports that it's been talking with Hamas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The memo to Trudeau lays out the geopolitical stakes in the ongoing Middle East crisis between Israel and the Palestinians, but does not specify any role for Canada.

It says there are "persistent reports of indirect talks between Israel and Hamas aimed at negotiating an extended ceasefire." It notes that the Palestinian Authority, which controls the West Bank, is "concerned that it is being shut out of the process, while the government of Israel has denied reports that such negotiations are underway."

The memo reminds the prime minister that the territory has been heavily damaged in wars since then.

"After three wars with Israel and limited reconstruction on Gaza's infrastructure, a truce between Israel and Hamas would be in their respective interests."

In addition to killing 2,200 Palestinians, most of them civilians, and 73 Israelis, most soldiers, an estimated 100,000 Gazans were left homeless after the third war in 2014. Harper blamed the death and destruction of Gaza solely on Hamas, condemning it for rocket attacks on Israel.

The memo shows the incoming Trudeau government coming to terms with a "geopolitically significant" development in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, said Kamran Bokhari of the University of Ottawa's Security and Policy Institute.

"It's a pretty sharp contrast with the position of the Harper government, which was very much anti-Hamas and very much pro-Israel," said Bokhari. THE CANADIAN PRESS

VIETNAM

Canadian sentenced to four years in jail

A Canadian man has been sentenced in Vietnam to four years in jail for abusing teenage boys.

Vadim Scott Benderman, 45, admitted during his half-day trial on Wednesday that he lured four boys into his home in Hanoi and paid them between $10 and $15 to have sex. A judge sentenced Benderman to four years in prison and ordered he be expelled from the country after serving his sentence.

Michael Brosowski, founder of the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation, which helps homeless and trafficked minors in Vietnam, said boys told his foundation they'd been abused by a foreigner they called Ben or Dan.

His charity provided a lawyer to represent the boys, aged 13 to 15. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEXUAL ABUSE

Charity tipped off police
Michael Brosowski, founder of Blue Dragon Children's Foundation, which helps trafficked minors in Vietnam, said Benderman's arrest was aided by his staff. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ethan Ribeiro as Billy Elliot, photo by Robert Tinker

Suicide bomber a refugee

TURKEY

Syrian who attacked tourists had ties to ISIL

The suicide attacker who detonated a bomb that killed 10 German tourists in the heart of Istanbul's historic district had registered as a refugee just a week earlier, Turkish officials said Wednesday, raising questions over whether extremists are posing as asylum-seekers to inflame anti-immigrant sentiment in Europe.

Turkish authorities identified the assailant in Tuesday's attack as a Syrian man who was born in 1988, and said he was affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Turkish media, including some close to the government, identified him as Nabil Fadli and said he was Saudi-born. The extremist group has not so far claimed the attack.

Meanwhile, Turkish police arrested five people suspected of direct links to the bomb attack which took place just steps from the historic Blue Mosque in Istanbul's storied Sultanahmet district. The suspects were not identified.

The bomber had recently entered Turkey, authorities said, and Interior Minister Efkan Ala confirmed reports he had registered with an Istanbul branch of the Migration Management Authority, providing fingerprints that allowed officials to quickly identify him. Ala said the bomber wasn't on any Turkish or international watch lists for ISIL militants.

"This person was not someone who was being monitored," Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said.

> **"This person was not someone who was being monitored.**
> Turkish PM Ahmet Davutoglu

"It is a person who entered normally, as a refugee, as an asylum-seeker."

The attack wounded 15 people, including nine Germans and citizens of Norway, Peru and South Korea. Six of the victims remained hospitalized on Wednesday.

Although not as deadly as two attacks in Turkey last year that were blamed on ISIL, Tuesday's bombing had heightened resonance because it struck at Turkey's $30 billion tourism industry, which has already suffered from a steep decline. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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FRENCH ATTACKS

Paris café reopens its doors

With the blood and bullets now swept away, the Carillon café reopened its doors Wednesday for the first time since it was among the Paris sites targeted by Islamic extremists in November.

The French capital is trying to revive tourism and commerce after the attacks that cost 130 lives and cast a shadow of fear over the city. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Patrons sit on the terrace of the Carillon café, one of sites of the Nov. 13 terror attacks in Paris that killed 15 people.

2 People gather outside the Carillon cafe on Wednesday — its reopening day.

3 A barman serves drinks to patrons at the café.

ALL PHOTOS: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

NATIONAL IDENTITY

U.K. to debate fate of God Save the Queen

British lawmakers agreed Wednesday to consider replacing the royalist song that serves as England's anthem at sporting events.

"God Save the Queen" is the national anthem of the United Kingdom — made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — and is played at the Olympics and other events where the U.K. fields a single team.

At contests where the four areas compete separately, such as the soccer World Cup, England and Northern Ireland use "God Save the Queen," but Scotland and Wales have their own official songs — "Flower of Scotland" and "Land of My Fathers."

Labour Party lawmaker Toby Perkins said adopting an English anthem would "re-establish the idea that the United Kingdom is a union of four separate nations with their own identities."

Perkins told the House of Commons that "Jerusalem," regarded by many as England's unofficial anthem, was the most obvious choice. The song, whose words are by mystical 18th-century poet William Blake, vows to transform a country of "dark satanic mills" into a "green and pleasant land" like the ancient England that, legend says, was once visited by Jesus Christ.

Opposing the motion, traditionalist Conservative legislator Jacob Rees-Mogg said an English anthem would divide Britain.

"What greater pleasure can there be for a true-born Englishman or true-born Englishwoman than to listen to our own national anthem?" Rees-Mogg said.

Lawmakers agreed to hold a full House of Commons debate in March on Perkins' bill, which calls on the government to consult the public on a new anthem. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prince William sings 'God Save the Queen' in September 2015. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Loonie closes below 70¢
The Canadian dollar has closed below 70 cents U.S. for the first time in nearly 13 years. The loonie finished Wednesday at 69.71 cents U.S. The last time it closed this low was on April 30, 2003, when it was 69.76 cents US.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Al Jazeera America says it is shutting down
Cable news network Al Jazeera America says it will stop operating by April 30 just 2-1/2 years after its launch in August 2013. While it won some awards, not many people watched the channel.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Postmedia to cut costs faster and deeper
Postmedia Network Canada Corp. is accelerating and hiking its goal to cut costs as it continues to bleed advertising, print circulation and digital media revenue. It is aiming for cost reductions of $80 million by mid-2017 — up from $50 million in cuts by the end of 2017.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

COMMUNICATIONS

Corus buying Shaw's media division in deal worth $2.65B

Shaw Communications is selling its media division to Corus Entertainment for $2.65 billion — a deal that will help fund the telecom company's purchase of Wind Mobile.

Shaw Media includes the Global Television network and 19 specialty channels including HGTV Canada, Food Network Canada and Showcase — formerly part of the Canwest business group before it was split up.

Corus already owns a number of other specialty TV channels as well as a network of radio stations and the Nelvana animation studio.

Both companies are controlled by the Shaw family through its voting shares. Shaw Communications will become a large shareholder in Corus as a result of the deal, which involves both cash and shares.

It's the second major deal for Shaw Communications in recent weeks. It announced on Dec. 16 that it's buying Wind Mobile for $1.6 billion.

After the deal closes, Shaw Communications will own about 39 per cent of the equity in Corus. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Corus Entertainment will acquire the Global Television network and 19 specialty channels including HGTV Canada, Food Network Canada and Showcase when it closes its deal to buy Shaw's media division. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Join the club, share a room

SHARING ECONOMY

Service offers travellers option to split hotel cost

Want to stay at a five-star hotel in Los Angeles or San Francisco for half-price?

You can, but the only catch is you would have to share it with a stranger.

Welcome to Winston Club, a new website that launches service in March, taking the sharing economy to its literal sense.

"We are catering to travellers, often those who are self-funded, who enjoy the comforts of a four- or five-star hotel, but are looking for a more economical price point," said Bryon Shannon, founder and CEO of the Seattle startup.

5
The number of cities in which Winston Club will operate on the U.S. west coast including Seattle, Portland and Las Vegas.

It plans to start in five cities on the U.S. west coast including Seattle, Portland and Las Vegas with a dozen hotels, though every room will have two beds, so there shouldn't be any scenes from the movie Planes, Trains and Automobiles.

Shannon concedes the idea of sharing a hotel room with a stranger is not for everyone, but argues people are more willing to try new things these days. "Companies in the sharing economy had a little bit of pushback initially. With Uber it was jumping into a car, or with Airbnb, it's staying in a stranger's home," he said.

Winston Club acts like a travel agent, booking rooms with hotels, and taking a commission from the hotel. "No hotel likes to have vacant rooms," he said. "This way, they get to sell more rooms at full price."
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PRE-BUDGET TOUR

Economic woes follow finance minister

No matter where Bill Morneau has taken his pre-budget roadshow, the economic storm clouds have gathered overhead.

The federal finance minister's cross-country tour, created to consult Canadians as he crafts his first budget, has been overshadowed by the rapidly deteriorating economic situation.

On top of focusing on the new Liberal government's plans to help middle-income Canadians and spur economic growth, Morneau has had to explain the "considerable headwinds" that he acknowledges have "no quick, easy fixes."

Canada's commodity-heavy economy is suffering from a toxic combination of still-falling resources prices, mounting business and consumer pessimism and eroding fiscal conditions that are gnawing away at the government's bottom line.

"The challenges that we face today are real," Morneau told a business crowd Tuesday in Montreal.

Those obstacles include tumbling crude-oil prices, a key determinant of government revenues and overall economic health. Canada has been struggling since the late-2014 oil-price shock, which forced the economy to contract over the first two quarters of 2015.

In late November, Morneau released a fall fiscal update that based its calculations using private-sector projections calling for oil to average $54 per barrel in 2016. The prediction seemed optimistic at the time; oil was about $40 US.

This week, crude prices slid to $30 US and some analysts have warned it could fall to $20 US per barrel.

The drop in oil prices has also dragged down the dollar, pushing it to about 70 cents US — its lowest level since 2003.

But even as the low loonie drives up some consumer costs, like vacations abroad and supermarket prices, experts say that overall, it should help the economy, particularly when it comes to exporters.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finance Minister Bill Morneau listens to a panel discussion at the Munk School of Global Affairs in Toronto on Wednesday.
PETER POWER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
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THE BIG NUMBER

42%

The decrease since 2004 in the proportion of Canadians who use cocaine or crack, according to Health Canada.

The crack epidemic in North American cities during the 1980s and '90s lined the pockets of Latin American drug lords such as El Chapo and Pablo Escobar because nearly all of the world's coca leaves (cocaine's raw material) are grown in Colombia, Bolivia and Peru. But for well over a decade now, cocaine has been losing its cool factor. In 2004, 1.9 per cent of Canadians said they'd used some form of cocaine in the past 12 months, but by 2012, the last year for which data is available, only 1.1 per cent said so. Although the war on drugs, and its accompanying crackdown on trafficking, likely had something to do with this, experts believe cocaine just kind of went out of style in addition to getting much more expensive relative to other drugs. Canadians are still getting high en masse, but more are popping prescription pills than packing crack pipes — although with marijuana soon to be legal, our habits may be about to shift again.

SOURCE: CANADIAN ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE MONITORING SURVEY

Sweeping, secretive air travel policy doesn't fly

Faisal Kutty and **Mustafa Jilani**

In the wake of the six-year-old caught in Canada's no-fly web, the government has promised to examine changes to the program. "(It's) no fault of their own," says Ralph Goodale, the minister of public safety, adding that false positives "can present an awkward situation" and "a feeling of stigma."

Awkwardness and stigma may not quite fully convey the extent of the impact for the hundreds or thousands on the list and those with similar names. Lost jobs, separation from family, fear, anxiety and uncertainty are all too real.

Over the years, many have been caught in limbo.

The program introduced in 2007 created the Specified Persons Advisory Group (SPAG), which identified individuals who posed an "immediate threat" for inclusion on the Specified Persons List, which airlines are mandated to screen against. Once flagged, a Transport Canada official could authorize boarding, request extra screening or issue an "emergency direction" to prevent boarding.

A denied person could apply to the Office of Reconsideration. However, as evident from court documents in the Hani Al Telbani case, the office's power is only illusory. The office concluded that CSIS relied on "vague and incomplete" information and had no basis to add Al Telbani. The SPAG ignored the recommendation and kept him on the list.

Over the years many have been caught in limbo. Laureen Kinney, director general of aviation security at Transport Canada, testified to a 2010 parliamentary committee that there were about 850 false positives within the first three years.

Rather than addressing concerns, the Secure Air Travel Act (part of the anti-terror legislation passed last year) exacerbated them. It authorized the establishment of a list of people who the government has reasonable grounds to suspect will, with or without intent, threaten transportation security or commit a terror offence. This, along with other changes ushered in by SATA, ensured the list would quickly grow.

The new anti-terror legislation will also make it more difficult for anyone caught up in the no-fly list to find recourse. Under the new law, such a person must apply directly to the minister of public safety within 60 days to challenge a listing. This is akin to having the fox guard the henhouse.

Ironically, as the U.S. eases up on its own lists in response to civil-rights lawsuits, the Canadian list is becoming more secretive, sweeping and less accountable.

Watch lists may serve a limited legitimate function, but they must be used cautiously. The government's appeal to national security should not exempt it from accountability, oversight and a meaningful redress mechanism.

Faisal Kutty is counsel to KSM Law in Toronto and an adjunct professor at Osgoode Hall law school. **Mustafa Jilani** is an associate at KSM Law.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

If El Chapo's devotion surprises you, it shouldn't.

If you slogged through Sean Penn's sometimes unintelligible ode to drug kingpin El Chapo in Rolling Stone magazine, you perhaps know a few more things than you used to.

Penn loves his own penis. Joaquín Archivaldo Guzmán Loera — or El Chapo, the world's most powerful drug trafficker — has charisma as well as the blood of thousands of Mexicans on his hands. And he believes in God.

In the interview, such as it was, El Chapo recounts asking God for help escaping from prison (he's since been recaptured). He thanks God that his mother is still alive and says he wants to be with his family for "the days God gives me."

If this devotion comes as a surprise to you — as it did to some — it shouldn't.

Drug traffickers across Latin America are typically religious, and Catholic, like just about all their neighbours.

"Latin America is the most Christian region on earth," says R. Andrew Chesnut, chair in Catholic studies at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond and an expert on Latin American religious history. Ninety per cent of Latin Americans are Christians, and 40 per cent of the world's Catholics live in Latin America, he says.

It is Colombian traffickers who exported St. Jude — the patron saint of lost causes — to Mexico, where he's now widely popular, Chesnut says.

Traffickers' faith is "not so much about Christian morality," he says. Since the threat of death is everywhere, divine protection "is the most important function of both the Catholic and folk saints popular among narcos."

That creates a fraught relationship, to say the least. On one hand, Latin American churches have been accused of money laundering, via cartels' donations or "narcolimosnas." Meanwhile, a slew of priests who publicly oppose drug cartels have been murdered in recent years.

Then there are folk saints, most notably Santa Muerte, figures not recognized by the Catholic Church but wildly popular among traffickers.

Saint Death is also known as a healer, a miracle worker and agent of prosperity, says Chesnut, who wrote a book on her. "If you're looking at narcos in Mexico, the most important religious figure for them is Santa Muerte."

That has made her "Religious Enemy No. 1" to the Mexican government, he adds, and a challenge to the church, too. But fighting the spread of beliefs is as hard as fighting the spread of drugs.

As for God's guiding hand in El Chapo's life, I imagine, in the drug lord's familiar old place behind bars, he's got a bone to pick with the Almighty.

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Whole new chapter

This is the time of the year to pull up your socks and be a better you. Here are books to inspire: physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

AYSE BIRSEL

Design the Life You Love

Ayse Birsel is the creative director and principal of Birsel + Seck, the New York design studio she founded with her husband, Bibi Seck. Her book is a beautifully designed self-help manual filled with words (hand-printed by the author) and pictures (doodles, drawings, cartoons and comic strip/graphic novel panels, vision maps and other creative tools) that is fun to flip through and filled with creative ideas for designing your best life possible. In her introduction, Birsel says the workbook (she prefers, "playbook" to put the emphasis on fun) represents the "intersection of my design process, Deconstruction Reconstruction, and my biggest project, my life."

DANIEL KLEIN

Every Time I Find the Meaning of Life, They Change It

Daniel Klein's new book began as a notebook titled Pithies, and contained thoughts from history's great philosophers. As a young man he hoped these notes on "how to live the best life" would offer direction. As an old man, he finds the quest useful, and expands on his long-ago pithies in hopes of helping others.

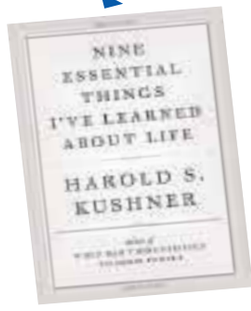
YONI FREEDHOFF

The Diet Fix: Why Diets Fail and How to Make Yours Work

What would a new year be without a resolution to lose weight? It isn't so much a diet book as an anti-diet book. Yoni Freedhoff, an Ottawa doctor, examines why 90 per cent of diets fail, and offers common sense help with a 10-Day Reset that he says can change your relationship with food forever. Tall order. Nothing else has worked, so this might be worth a try.

HAROLD S. KUSHNER

Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life



Harold S. Kushner, an American rabbi, is the author of 1978's memorable When Bad Things Happen To Good People and his subsequent books have similarly dealt with faith's thornier questions. He writes for a general audience — which is to say you don't have to be Jewish to gain spiritual sustenance from what he has to say. His chapter titles draw you in.

WHOOPI GOLDBERG

If Someone Says, "You Complete Me," RUN!

Whoopi Goldberg has been married three times and had several other non-wedlock unions. She has concluded that finding the One isn't for her. So what can she tell us about managing a relationship? Plenty. Over 16 chapters, the actress, comedian and TV moderator, navigates the shoals of being with another.

NEW FROM SONJA LARSEN

Memoir of teenage rebellion with a red streak

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

From James Dean to Justin Bieber, rebellion has always been part of the teenage experience. Usually, it's no more dramatic than cutting the occasional math class or stealing a bottle from the liquor cabinet. But for Sonja Larsen, rebellion meant joining a radical left-wing political party and becoming the youngest member of its militia, an astonishing experience she chronicles in her new memoir, Red Star Tattoo: My Life as a Girl Revolutionary, published by Random House Canada.

Mind you, Larsen did not come from the most conventional family. She spent many of her formative years living in communes with her hippie parents, where sex and drugs were far from taboo, and Larsen was encouraged to make all her own decisions. Now 50 years old, Larsen acknowledges that some readers will think her parents were neglectful, but in hindsight, she views the situation differently.

"In the moment it was pretty empowering to be able to chose what I wanted to do, and to express myself," she says. "In the long run, my relationship with my parents was a sustaining force in that respect they had for me. They let me speak my mind and pursue the things I wanted to."

One thing that 16-year-old Larsen wanted to pursue on her own was moving to New York to join the National Labor Organization, a secret group preparing for the second American Revolution, led by the charismatic Gino Perente, known as the "Old Man." Larsen would soon become a mistress to Perente (later discovered to be a lifelong con man), which isn't even the most shocking situation that she would find herself in.

For years, Larsen, who is now a youth worker on Vancouver's tough downtown Eastside, didn't share her past with friends, joking that "those stories are a bit hard to just drop into cocktail conversation. Let's talk about the year I didn't go outside."

She always knew that she wanted to write, but her own story felt like a giant obstacle. It wasn't until she turned 40 that it felt like a "now or never" situation. "It really felt like if I started writing, I was going to write that story, and I wasn't sure, up until then, that I was ready," she says. "It would mean revealing a lot of other people's secrets and just being quite exposed and disloyal."

When she finally realized she needed to write to be happy, the biggest challenge Larsen faced was how to tell her story. In the end, she decided to keep it simple, a chronology of her early life told through personal memories.

"I didn't want to tell it backwards with the insight I have now," she says.

"I wanted to tell it forward as the kid and the person that I was then, trying to figure everything out."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

Royal treatment: Hurley a natural as bawdy queen

THE SHOW: The Royals, Season 1 Episode 6, (E, Crave)
THE MOMENT: The Command

Helena, Queen of England (Elizabeth Hurley), resplendent in a form-fitting peach lace dress, is upbraiding her new bodyguard in her boudoir. A lower-class American, he lied about his background. (And recently stopped having blackmail sex with her daughter, Princess Eleanor. But Helena is blithely unconcerned about that.)

"You've caught me on a good day, Bodyguard," Hurley says, in tones plummier than a plum tree. "I'm melancholy. I'm stressed. And I'm severely horny. Think you have what it takes to earn my silence?" He unknots his tie. "Don't let's get ahead of ourselves," she says. "Are you familiar with the expression, 'At Her Majesty's pleasure'?" She hikes up her hem, spreads her thighs. He kneels.

Not unlike dear Bodyguard, this show is groin-deep in drugs and diamonds, fascinators and G-rated filth. In our age of political correctness, it revels in the phrase "spoiled rotten." The characters cannot behave badly enough. The princess is a fashion-plate junkie. The King's brother is a leering, polymorphously perverse ascot wearer. The prince and his bland American girlfriend are "good," and therefore extremely dull; their storyline exists only to be fast-forwarded through.

But the show is Hurley, and she's a royal hoot. At least three times per episode, she announces that she's the Queen of England: "I'm the Queen of England, damn it!" "The Queen of England can't take time off to grieve." "But you're not the Queen of England, are you? I am!" Hurley was born for this role. Even her lip gloss shimmers with glee.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Elizabeth Hurley as Helena, Queen of England, in The Royals. CONTRIBUTED

BAD MOVIES

Fifty Shades a leader in Razzies race

Fifty Shades of Grey is all tied up with Pixels, Jupiter Ascending and Paul Blart Mall Cop 2 for the most nominations at this year's Golden Raspberry Awards celebrating the worst in cinema.

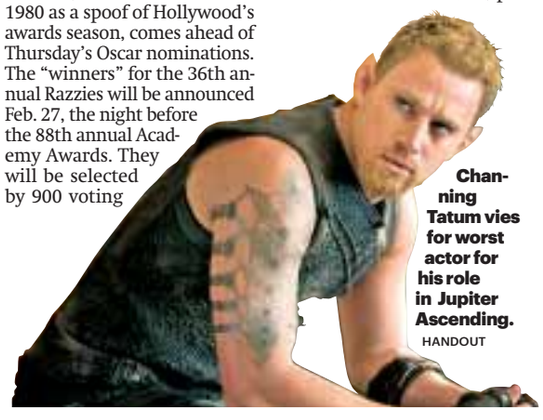
The films led the Razzies lineup Wednesday with six nods each, including worst picture and worst actor for Jamie Dornan in the sexy thriller Fifty Shades of Grey, Kevin James in the comedy sequel Paul Blart Mall Cop 2, Channing Tatum in the sci-fi film Jupiter Ascending and Adam Sandler in the video game mash-up Pixels and fantasy-comedy The Cobbler.

The other worst picture nominee is the superhero flop Fantastic Four, which is also up for worst remake, screen combo, director for Josh Trank and screenplay for Simon Kinberg, Jeremy Slater and Trank.

The announcement of the Razzies, which launched in 1980 as a spoof of Hollywood's awards season, comes ahead of Thursday's Oscar nominations. The "winners" for the 36th annual Razzies will be announced Feb. 27, the night before the 88th annual Academy Awards. They will be selected by 900 voting members from 47 states in the United States and 21 foreign countries.

While far less star-studded than other award shows, past recipients such as Halle Berry and Sandra Bullock, have actually shown up in person to claim their gold spray-painted prizes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan both earned nominations for Fifty Shades of Grey. HANDOUT



Channing Tatum vies for worst actor for his role in Jupiter Ascending. HANDOUT

Paul Blart Mall Cop 2 ties for most Razzie nods. HANDOUT

NOMINEES

- **Worst picture:** Fantastic Four, Fifty Shades of Grey, Jupiter Ascending, Paul Blart Mall Cop 2, Pixels.
- **Worst actor:** Johnny Depp, Mortdecai; Jamie Dornan, Fifty Shades of Grey; Kevin James, Paul Blart Mall Cop 2; Adam Sandler, The Cobbler and Pixels; Channing Tatum, Jupiter Ascending.
- **Worst actress:** Katherine Heigl, Home Sweet Hell; Dakota Johnson, Fifty Shades of Grey; Mila Kunis, Jupiter Ascending; Jennifer Lopez, The Boy Next Door; Gwyneth Paltrow, Mortdecai.
- **Worst supporting actor:** Chevy Chase, Hot Tub Time Machine 2 and Vacation; Josh Gad, Pixels and The Wedding Ringer; Kevin James, Pixels; Jason Lee, Alvin and the Chipmunks: Road Chip; Eddie Redmayne, Jupiter Ascending.
- **Worst supporting actress:** Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting, Alvin and the Chipmunks: Road Chip and The Wedding Ringer; Rooney Mara, Pan; Michelle Monaghan, Pixels; Julianne Moore, Seventh Son; Amanda Seyfried, Love the Coopers and Pan.

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MEET THE CONDO

A district with design character

Project overview

District Condominiums reside in several heritage buildings in the city's hip Exchange District. Each building is converted into character lofts designed for modern living while retaining the design touches that make it special. Final suites are selling at 110 James Ave. (19 units in total) and 132 James Ave. (49 units in total). Another conversion is planned for the building at 139 Market Ave.

In the neighbourhood

Living in the Exchange District means a short walk to The Forks, Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Burton Cummings Theatre or Pantages. Restaurants, taverns, coffee shops and boutiques are all close by with more opening as the Exchange experiences a residential rebirth. Pet owners love Stephen Juba Park for its green spaces along the river.

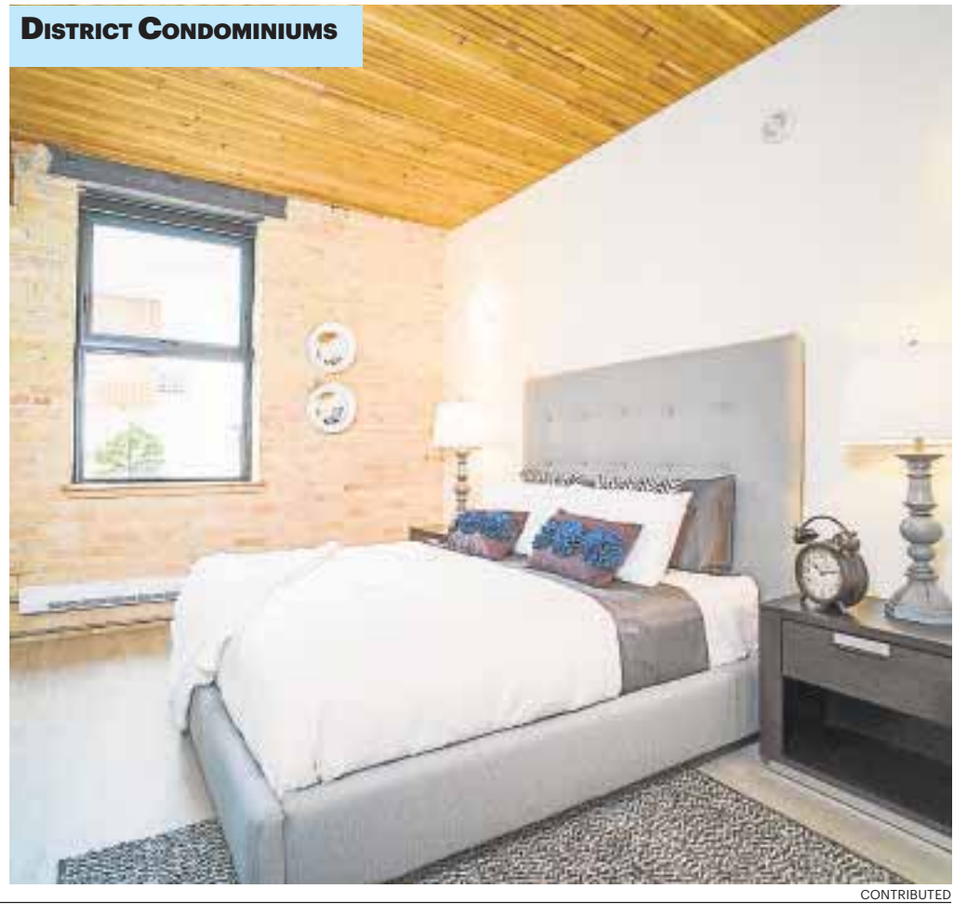
Location and transit

This unbeatable location in the heart of the Exchange District puts residents steps away from the Manitoba Theatre Centre and endless dining, cultural and arts destinations. It's a two-minute walk to Main Street for dozens of transit routes. Buyers can also choose an annual membership to Peg City Car Co-op.

Housing Amenities

A mix of exposed original brick walls, wood beams and soaring ceilings give each of the suites a distinctive character. Each unit has new double-pane windows and complementary modern finishes for a blending of old and new. There are elevators, storage lockers and secure building entrances at both buildings. A common rooftop terrace is a bonus at 132 James Ave. One remaining luxury suite boasts a private rooftop patio.

SHEL ZOLKEWICH/FOR METRO



CONTRIBUTED

NEED TO KNOW

What: District Condominiums
Builder: StreetSide Developments
Location: 110 and 132 James Ave.
Building: Condos. (110 James Ave. is four storeys, 132 James Ave. is three storeys.)
Sizes: 628 sq. ft. to 1140 sq. ft.
Pricing: $212,600 to $405,900, including GST
Suites: Studio, 1-bedroom, 2-bedrooms, 3-bedrooms, penthouse-style suite
Status: Now selling
Occupancy: Move-in-ready
Sales centre: 405-110 James Ave.
Phone: 204-942-3584
Website: districtcondos.ca

3 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR MANTELPIECE A DECOR FOCAL POINT ALL YEAR

When January arrives, even Christmas-loving homeowners might be happy to put away Santa and his reindeer.

But the post-holiday mantel and fireplace can look strangely bare.

A well-decorated fireplace — even without a wood-burning fire inside — can be the perfect source of cheerful style and warm glow throughout the first weeks of the new year.

Here, interior designer Cathy Davin, HGTV stylist Meg Allan Cole and interior designer Mallory Mathison share their ideas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Keep the winter theme

Davin believes in celebrating winter even after the holidays are over. She removes red poinsettias, but keeps white ones and white cyclamen around her fireplace. And she continues lighting white and gold candles on the mantel. She also encourages clients to keep tiny white lights in their living space for a warm glow throughout January.

2 Get crafty

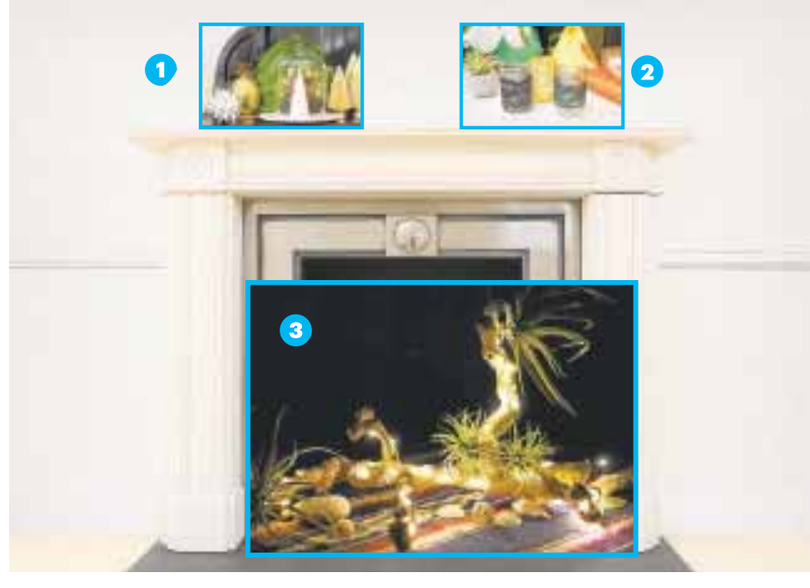
Your mantel is the perfect place to get creative. Cole suggests seeking out craft projects that use votive candles (she offers some ideas at hgtv.com).

3 Look inside

If you're not using your fireplace for a fire, use that space decoratively by filling it with candles or other items. Just remember to keep things looking reasonably natural.

"The 'go-to' is a bundle of clean, pretty birch logs that are arranged as if they are waiting to be lit," Mathison says. "I love to use andirons and then stack the birch logs in a pyramid."

Some designers fill the firebox area with small bookshelves or other unexpected items. Mathison prefers not to: She thinks using decorative items that aren't made to be in a fireplace can "feel forced and contrived."



metro SPORT

Running back Marshawn Lynch is back at practice but the Seahawks wouldn't confirm that he'll play Sunday against the Panthers

Jets marred in no-fly zone

VIEW FROM THE 300S

Andrew 'Hustler' Paterson

The Winnipeg Jets began the week back at home to begin a crucial stretch of their schedule with nine of 10 games at MTS Centre.

After two uninspired and, at times, lifeless performances in losses to Buffalo and San Jose to begin the homestand, Paul Maurice and Kevin Cheveldayoff find themselves with major fires to put out before the whole year goes up in flames.

When the Jets made the playoffs last year, they were lauded as a fast, physical team which no other squad would be able to beat easily. They worked as hard as any team in the league and earned every one of the 99 points it took to make the post-season.

Which makes the recent play of the team so disheartening to fans and certainly Jets management.

Coach Maurice didn't have many answers after either loss this week, but it was obvious he was as frustrated as the customers that packed the arena to witness consecutive duds from the Jets. But the questions for the coach won't go away.

Never mind the consistent lack of discipline that has killed the Jets all season, where is the emotion in a team that has every reason to play with a sense of urgency with their season in the balance?

Every team will have a couple of snoozers over the course of a season, but Sunday's game against Buffalo was especially baffling. It seemed like the Jets did everything they could to avoid any talk of former Jet Evander Kane and treat the matchup like "any other game." They did such a good job, they turned a fired up MTS Centre into a library and watched Kane and the Sabres leave town with a 4-2 win. More of the same Tuesday as the Jets allowed a tired San Jose Sharks team playing the second of back-to-back road games to walk out with another two points.

Frustration appears to be mounting among head coach Paul Maurice and Jets fans . TREVOR HAGAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

41

With 41 points the Jets are dead last in the Central Division.

The recent losses also raise questions about the leadership group of the Jets. With the notable exception of Blake Wheeler, the core of the Jets has been inconsistent this season and hasn't lived up to the standard set last year. The looming free agency of captain Andrew Ladd and Dustin Byfuglien certainly isn't helping, but that is part of the business. The Jets are far from the only team in this situation.

The Jets' record and uninspired play of late will likely push Kevin Cheveldayoff to move forward with significant moves before the deadline. This team could look very different come March 1 if things continue as they have been lately.

The Jets seem broken right now. Something isn't right. The identity of the team that made the playoffs last year is completely missing. The coach and the players in the dressing room need to get this turned around immediately or moves will be made with the future in mind and hockey conversations in Winnipeg will turn to the 2016 NHL draft.

AHL

Comrie earns first pro shutout

Maybe the Manitoba Moose are sick and tired of being mashed by the Monsters.

The Moose were quite unlike their normal selves Wednesday night as the struggling club blanked the Lake Erie Monsters 4-0 in front of 6,604 at MTS Centre.

The Monsters have had their way with their Central Division foes this season — winners of their five previous meetings with the Moose by a combined margin of 13 goals.

WEDNESDAY

4	0
MOOSE	MONSTERS

In his 19th start over the last 20 games, goaltender Eric Comrie recorded his first career professional shutout. The 20-year-old turned away 24 shots to bump his personal record to 9-12-3 and help his club to their 11th victory of the season.

Rookie forward Chase De Leo tallied a pair of markers to up his team-leading goal total to 11 on the year, while second-year pro J.C. Lipon recorded the Gordie Howe hat trick with a wrap-around goal with 11.3 seconds remaining in the first, and adding an assist and a fight in the second. DARRIN BAUMING/FOR METRO

WORKPLACE REVIEW

COC to implement recommendations

The Canadian Olympic Committee says it will implement all of the recommendations from a third-party workplace review of its handling of the Marcel Aubut affair.

Aubut stepped down as COC president last year after women accused him of sexual harassment.

A report from employment law experts Rubin Thomlinson identified gaps in the area of human resources systems and processes and recommends widespread changes to the COC to "significantly strengthen workplace policies, procedures, and governance." THE CANADIAN PRESS

SAFETY

The COC Board says it has approved the hiring of senior and designated human resources leadership to ensure a safe and healthy environment.

NHL IN BRIEF

Jets' Myers fined $5,000 for cross check to head

Winnipeg Jets defenceman Tyler Myers wasn't expecting a call from the NHL's department of player safety after a cross check on San Jose Sharks forward Tommy Wingels on Tuesday night.

"I think it's a joke if I get a phone call from the league," Myers said following Winnipeg's 4-1 loss to the Sharks.

The NHL thought differently, though, and on Wednesday night fined Myers $5,000. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rookie goalie leads Blue Jackets past Maple Leafs

Rookie Joonas Korpisalo made 41 saves as the last-place Columbus Blue Jackets snapped a four-game losing skid with a 3-1 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Wednesday.

Boone Jenner, Alexander Wennberg and Brandon Dubinsky scored for the Blue Jackets (16-25-4).

Brad Boyes scored for the Maple Leafs (16-18-7), who have just two goals in their past three outings — all losses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

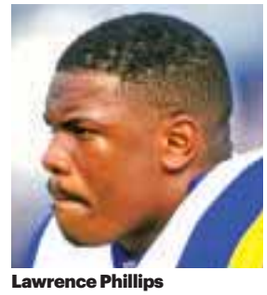
PRISON

Ex-Alouettes star found dead in cell

California prison officials say former CFL and NFL running back Lawrence Phillips has been found dead in his prison cell, and they suspect suicide.

Officials say guards at Kern Valley State Prison found the 40-year-old Phillips unresponsive in his cell shortly after midnight Wednesday. He was pronounced dead about 1:30 a.m.

He had been in segregation since April 2013 after he was suspected of killing his cellmate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Lawrence Phillips
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Manning back with a little more giddy-up

NFL PLAYOFFS

Roethlisberger vows to do what he can to crack Steelers lineup

Peyton Manning will make his first start in over two months this Sunday against the Steelers.
DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It looks like Peyton Manning will be the healthiest quarterback in Denver this weekend. His counterpart is nursing a sprained right shoulder and his backup a sprained right knee.

"I obviously haven't played a ton here in the last few weeks," Manning said Wednesday. "I needed that time in order to get healthy certain parts of my body. At the same time, other parts of your body take advantage of that, right? Not getting hit and not getting pounded on, you try to take advantage of that and feel better for it."

Manning, who missed the equivalent of seven weeks with a left foot injury, makes his first start since Nov. 15 when the Broncos (12-4) host the sixth-seeded Steelers (11-6) on Sunday.

Ben Roethlisberger promises he'll do everything he can to be there for the Steelers. He was injured on a sack by Cincinnati linebacker Vontaze Burfict in the second half of Pittsburgh's 18-16 wild-card win.

Brock Osweiler was injured against San Diego two weeks ago before Manning's epic cameo secured the AFC's top seed and earned him his starting job back.

Osweiler worked on the side with strength and conditioning coach Luke Richesson on Wednesday while rookie Trevor Siemian split snaps with Manning. Coach Gary Kubiak said he anticipates Osweiler being healthy enough to serve as Manning's backup against Pittsburgh, however.

> **I needed that time in order to get healthy certain parts of my body.**
> Denver QB Peyton Manning

Roethlisberger sat out practice Wednesday with QBs Landry Jones and Michael Vick sharing snaps for the Steelers.

"I want to be out there (Sunday), unless I'm going to hurt the team," Roethlisberger said.

"If you can't throw the ball 25, 30 yards downfield, I think you're hurting your team. So, I don't think we put ourselves in that situation. But if we can find any way possible to get out there, whether it's with pain medicine, whatever it is, if I can deal with the pain and make plays, even if I have to be in a lot of pain the next day, then I'll deal with it."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL PLAYOFFS

Patriots focused and tight-lipped on Jones

After a year of "Deflategate," the New England Patriots aren't about to let Chandler Jones' still-unexplained trip to the hospital bother them.

"I think coach (Bill) Belichick does a great job of really just, like, brainwashing us," defensive back Duron Harmon said on Wednesday as the Patriots prepared for their playoff game against the Kansas City Chiefs.

"We just try to ignore all the distractions, whether it's that situation or 'Deflategate,' or any other distraction," he said. "We just try to ignore the noise."

Chandler Jones
GETTY IMAGES

A Pro Bowl selection who was fifth in the NFL with 12-1/2 sacks, Jones was admitted to a local hospital and released later the same day on Sunday with an unspecified emergency that also involved the Foxborough police.

Jones was not available during the 45 minutes that the Patriots locker room was open to reporters before practice on Wednesday. He was seen on the field during the stretching portion of practice. The team said in a statement that he has not missed practice or any team meetings.

Tight end Rob Gronkowski was also back at practice on Wednesday, a day after he was not there for the media portion. Gronkowski was also not available during the open locker room session.

Jones' teammates declined to comment about his situation except to say they are concerned about his health. "Chandler's got a lot of support in this locker room," receiver Danny Amendola said. "He's a great football player, and I'm excited to see what he does this week."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Leicester crowds Arsenal at the top

Arsenal conceded a 90th-minute equalizer at Liverpool to lose its outright lead in the Premier League on Wednesday, as Leicester kept up its surprising title challenge with a 1-0 win at Tottenham.

Only a superior goal difference is keeping Arsenal above Leicester after the 3-3 draw at Anfield.

Manchester City was held to a 0-0 draw at home at Everton and is three points off the lead in third place.

> **We have to remain calm and believe in what we're doing.**
> Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri

Tottenham still occupies the last Champions League qualifying spot, but fifth-place West Ham is just one point behind.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL IN BRIEF

Jones returns as B.C. Lions' offensive co-ordinator

Khari Jones is back as the B.C. Lions' offensive co-ordinator. The team announced Jones's return to the position he held in 2014 on Wednesday. He served as the club's receivers coach last season and will also coach the club's quarterbacks this year.

Mark Washington also returns for his third season as B.C.'s defensive co-ordinator. "I'm pleased to have Khari and Mark leading their respective units next season," Lions head coach/GM Wally Buono said in a statement. "They're both coaches who have been part of championship staffs in the past."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beaulieu signs three-year deal with Alouettes

Canadian fullback Jean-Christophe Beaulieu signed a three-year contract with the Montreal Alouettes on Wednesday. The six-foot-three, 220-pound native of Trois-Rivieres, Que., was scheduled to become a free agent next month.

Beaulieu started all 18 regular-season games with Montreal last year, registering five catches for 65 yards and a TD. The former Sherbrooke star helped tailback Tyrell Sutton rush for a league-high 1,059 yards.

"We look to get him (Beaulieu) more involved in the offence in 2016," Als coach Jim Popp said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DAILY TREAT
Winnipeg metro

RECIPE Ginger Pork Noodles

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This light and brothy pasta marks a fresh break from your same-old pasta bolognese. And the bright snap peas remind us that spring will come eventually.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

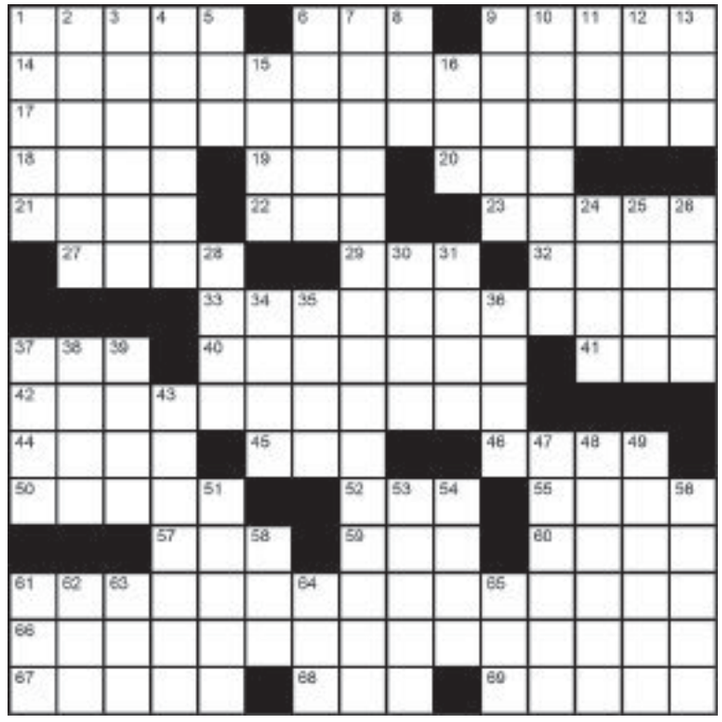
Ingredients
- 250 g rigatoni or egg noodles
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 cooking onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup mushrooms, chopped
- 500 g ground pork
- 8 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp ginger, minced
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup sugar snap peas (or other crunch green)
- 2 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 2 Tbsp spring onions, chopped
- 1 Tbsp fresh cilantro

Directions
1. Make pasta according to instructions and set aside.
2. Heat olive oil in a wok or deep skillet over medium heat. Soften chopped onion for 3 minutes. Add mushrooms, and once softened add minced pork.
3. After pork is cooked add garlic and ginger. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Stir and cook for a couple of minutes, then add sugar snap peas. Pour stock over pork mixture, which will make it soup-y. Add chopped spring/green onion and stir until blended. Ladle over the noodles and garnish with cilantro.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Pomp
6. Audi models
9. Q. "What Beatles song goes 'Treasure these few words...'?" A. "It's known __ '_-_-_ Love You'."
14. "Big improvement!": 4 wds.
17. One of the National Gallery of Canada's collections: 2 wds.
18. Obscure
19. Sass
20. Hairstyling goo
21. Ancient war god
22. Here: French
23. Do the foxtrot
27. Title for a Miss, in Madrid [abbr.]
29. Music trio, e.g.
32. Back
33. Crispy appetizers topped with cheese: 2 wds.
37. Tavern drink
40. First three words of a hoping-to-be-rescued person's promise to his or herself...
41. Director Spike
42. Canadian politician like Thomas Mulcair: 2 wds.
44. Leg joint
45. Time off, slang-style
46. Pinnacle
50. Dwells on
52. American battleship letters
55. Website's main page
57. Type of bird
59. 'Proverb' suffix
60. "From here __...": 2 wds.
61. Higher food costs mean it will be more expensive for this in 2016: 2 wds.
66. British actor who played Chief Inspector Armand Gamache in "Still Life: A Three Pines Mystery", a 2013 TV adaptation of Canadian author Louise Penny's work: 2 wds.
67. Articulate
68. Art Garfunkel's partner ...his initials-sharers
69. Ladies

DOWN
1. __ Sketch
2. Sunday performers
3. Visiting-a-planet craft
4. Certify
5. Literary monogram
6. Theme
7. Escaping-the-winter-cold vacations: 2 wds.
8. Sun. address
9. Ventilated
10. Canadian band with the 1972 hit "Wildflower"
11. __ coat
12. Lady's man
13. TV Cousin
15. Nero's 2051
16. Time delay
24. Mr. Peart of Rush
25. Tapdancer's prop
26. Gaelic
28. Cap-_-_ (From head to toe)
30. Mix
31. Explosive star
34. Beatles: "Being for the Benefit __ __. Kite!"
35. Common noun suffix
36. __ _ date (Plan the wedding)
37. Cross of ancient Egypt
38. Ms. Horne
39. Water carrier
43. New Wave band, __ Mode
47. Well-being expert Deepak
48. Canadian broadcaster Ms. Deol who famously hosted "Electric Circus" on MuchMusic
49. Marshall Mathers' alias
51. __ campaign (Political ploy, perhaps)
53. Montreal-born humourist Mort, and surnamesakes
54. Swill
56. Bridge builders, briefly
58. Samovar
61. Wildebeest
62. Scoundrel
63. Canuck cap.
64. Baby dog's cry
65. Cooking spray brand

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Push yourself today. Make a special effort to get things done on time and to a high standard. You're sure to be rewarded and employers will think more highly of you in future.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
No matter how much you may desire something once you have got it you will realize it was not what you wanted after all. The fact is you are searching for something deeper, so look inside your head and your heart.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Don't just sit and watch the world go by, get out there. Choose your friends carefully but don't get so hung up on other people's worth that you don't leave time to have fun.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Someone you do business with may use unfair methods and tactics but don't lower your standards to keep up. You may be at a disadvantage in the short-term but over time your reputation will work in your favour.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
There are so many things you want to do but you're human and have to consider your limits. Focus only on the things that really matter. Talk only to people who matter as well.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Get that pent-up emotion out of your system. Try something that makes you work up a sweat, something you can do on your own — team sports could end in fights.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Be honest about your feelings today. If you don't deal with bad emotions now they will hold you back later. If you're working on a team you need to get past the personal.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you fear the worst today it will most likely happen. If you expect the best you will be pleasantly surprised. The Sun's link with Mercury, planet of the mind, means that good thoughts willlead to good things.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't let money matters and other materialistic issues take over your life. Move past worldly things and discover the riches to be enjoyed in feelings that come from the heart.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If your sixth sense tells you to stop what you are doing and check the details again, listen to it. Mercury in your sign heightens your perception but may also distort things a little, so err on the side of caution.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart suggests that your behaviour will be criticized today. If you're smart you will heed the protests and change your ways.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
No matter how weighed down by responsibilities you are you must find ways to get away from your everyday environment. Do only what makes you feel good about yourself.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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		6				2	3	
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		5		8		1		

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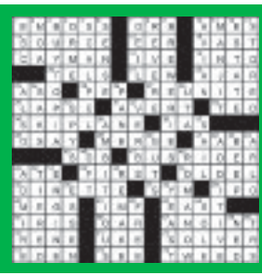
YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



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